

REMARKS

Claims 14-20 have been added above to claim the features recited therein. These claims read on the elected species.

In regard to section 2 of the office action, the claims have been amended to overcome the examiner's objections. The term "introduction opening" is not confusing or unclear. See page 3, lines 1-3 for example.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mosquera (US 4,975,076). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

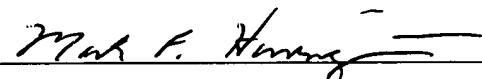
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the strain relief is adapted to be introduced into the introduction opening over the flat flex cable in a direction at least partially along an introduction direction of the flat flex cable into the introduction opening. Mosquera discloses a connector with a slot 16 formed between a cover 12 and a connector block 14. Cover 12 forms a strain relief for the cable 32. However, as seen in comparing Fig. 4 to Fig. 5, the cover 12 is moved as indicated by arrow A inward perpendicular to the cable 32. With applicant's invention on the other hand, as illustrated by comparing Fig. 2a to Fig. 2b, the strain relief is pushed inward at the rear end of the housing generally parallel to the cable; not perpendicular. This helps to insure that the front end of the cable does not back out of connection with the contacts 5 as the strain relief is being moved to its final position. Nowhere in Mosquera is there a disclosure or suggestion of the cover 12 being adapted to be introduced into

an introduction opening of the connector block 14 in a direction at least partially along an introduction direction of the flat flex cable 32 into the introduction opening of the connector block 14. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-13 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

11/28/06
Date

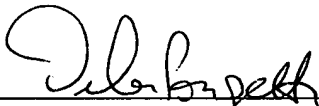
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Appl. No.: 10/533,344
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November 28, 2006
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